Mineral Water

4092. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of making mineral water by the silver ionisation process has been banned internationally due to its ill effects on health;

(b) if so, the names of the companies manufacturing mineral water by silver ionization process;

(c) whether there is any proposal to ban this process; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER SOF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA). (a) to (d). After considering all the relevant toxicological factors, World Health Organisation has prescribed permissible limit of 0.05 mg/1 of silver ion in drinking water. The Bureau of Indian Standards Code in this behalf conforms to the permissible limit prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

Helicopter Service to North–Eastern Region

4093. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the helicopter services to the hilly places in the North–eastern region.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when this service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). There is at present no specific project proposal to commence helicopter services for the North–Eastern Region. The possibility of starting such services would depend upon firming up of technoeconomic viability.

Percentage of Commission to Vendors in Railways

4094. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the percentage of commission given to commission vendors of railway catering;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The commission payable to vendors is linked with the selling price of various items as well as the quantum of sale. The commission of vendors automatically goes up with the increase in the selling price of items and the quantum of sales. The selling prices are periodically reviewed.

[*Translation*]

Train from Bhopal to Bombay

4095. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whethe the Government propose to

introduce a new train from Bhopal to Bombay in view of density of passengers traffic *there; and*

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Train from Pathankot to Bombay

4096. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to start a new train from Pathankot to Bombay via Burhanpur; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Operational and resource constraints.

[*English*]

Operation Black Board

4097. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Operation Black Board' has provided basic amenities to all primary schools in rural areas of the country as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Initially the target of the scheme was to cover 20% blocks during 1987-88, 30% in 1988-89 and remaining 50% during 1989-90. However, due to constraint on resources phasing had to be lengthened. So far the scheme could be implemented in 69% blocks in the country comprising 64% primary schools.

(c) The remaining blocks would be covered during VIIIth Plan.

Fixation of Pay

4098. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some anomalies has arisen after the fixation of pay of Vice-Principals of Government Schools, Directorate of Education (District North) Delhi Administration in the scale of 2000-3500 as a result of recommendations of Fourth Pay Commission; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to remove the anomaly and also of the affected/retired employees.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delhi Administration are processing the cases of the affected employees including those who have retired in consultation with their Finance Department.

Passenger Facilities at Kayamkulam Station

4099. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: